


Procedure file

Basic information		
CNS - Consultation procedure Decision	2007/0811(CNS)	Procedure completed
Narcotic and psychotropic substances: defining 1-benzylpiperazine BZP as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions		
Subject 7.30.30.04 Action to combat drugs and drug-trafficking		

Key players			
European Parliament	Committee responsible	Rapporteur	Appointed
	LIBE Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs		03/10/2007
		ALDE CAVADA Jean-Marie	
	Committee for opinion	Rapporteur for opinion	Appointed
	ENVI Environment, Public Health and Food Safety	The committee decided not to give an opinion.	
Council of the European Union	Council configuration	Meeting	Date
	Environment	2856	03/03/2008
European Commission	Commission DG	Commissioner	
	Justice and Consumers	FRATTINI Franco	

Key events			
19/07/2007	Legislative proposal published	11974/2007	Summary
24/09/2007	Committee referral announced in Parliament		
05/11/2007	Vote in committee		Summary
06/11/2007	Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading	A6-0417/2007	
14/11/2007	Results of vote in Parliament		
14/11/2007	Decision by Parliament	T6-0525/2007	Summary
03/03/2008	Act adopted by Council after consultation of Parliament		
03/03/2008	End of procedure in Parliament		
07/03/2008	Final act published in Official Journal		

Technical information	
Procedure reference	2007/0811(CNS)
Procedure type	CNS - Consultation procedure
Procedure subtype	Legislation
Legislative instrument	Decision
Stage reached in procedure	Procedure completed
Committee dossier	LIBE/6/53279

Documentation gateway					
Legislative proposal		11974/2007	19/07/2007	CSL	Summary
Committee draft report		PE396.410	10/10/2007	EP	
Amendments tabled in committee		PE396.542	17/10/2007	EP	
Committee report tabled for plenary, 1st reading/single reading		A6-0417/2007	06/11/2007	EP	
Text adopted by Parliament, 1st reading/single reading		T6-0525/2007	14/11/2007	EP	Summary
Commission response to text adopted in plenary		SP(2007)6527	18/12/2007	EC	

Additional information	
European Commission	EUR-Lex

Final act
Decision 2008/206 OJ L 063 07.03.2008, p. 0045 Summary

Narcotic and psychotropic substances: defining 1-benzylpiperazine BZP as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions

PURPOSE: to define 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions.

PROPOSED ACT: Council Decision.

BACKGROUND: BZP is a synthetic substance; it was first reported in the European Union in 1999. In some Member States BZP is legally available from retail chemical suppliers. For recreational purposes it is sold as tablets and capsules via internet sites or in some Member States in 'smart/ herbal shops'. On the illicit drugs market, BZP may also be sold/ bought as the popular drug ecstasy.

Thirteen Member States and one Third State (Norway) have reported seizures of BZP in powder, capsules or tablets. In five Member States, BZP is subjected to control measures and criminal penalties as provided under their legislation. Two Member States apply control measures to BZP under their medicines legislation.

A Risk Assessment Report on 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) was drawn up on the basis of Article 6 of the Council Decision 2005/387/JHA by a special session of the extended Scientific Committee of the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction and subsequently submitted to the Council and the Commission on 31 May 2007. The report reveals a lack of conclusive scientific evidence on the overall risks of BZP. However, due to its stimulant properties, risk to health, the lack of medical benefits and following the precautionary principle, there is a need to control BZP, but the control measures should be appropriate to the relatively low risks of the substance.

Placing 1-benzylpiperazine under control may help avoid problems in international law enforcement and judicial cooperation.

CONTENT: on the basis of the abovementioned information, this draft decision obliges the Member States to take the necessary measures, in accordance with their national law, to submit 1-benzylpiperazine (also known as 1-benzyl-1,4-diazacyclohexane, Nbenzylpiperazine or ? less precisely ? as benzylpiperazine or BZP) to control measures, proportionate to the risks of the substance, and criminal penalties, as provided for under their legislation complying with their obligations under the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

Narcotic and psychotropic substances: defining 1-benzylpiperazine BZP as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions

The Committee on Civil Liberties, Justice and Home Affairs adopted, without amendments at 1st reading of the consultation procedure, the report drafted by Jean-Marie CAVADA (ALDE, FR) on the proposal for a Council decision on defining 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions.

Narcotic and psychotropic substances: defining 1-benzylpiperazine BZP as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions

The European Parliament adopted a resolution drafted by Jean-Marie CAVADA (ALDE, FR) and approved the proposal for a Council decision on defining 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions.

It should be noted that the Parliament amended Article 1 of the proposed text by 329 votes for, 270 against and 18 abstentions. Parliament requests Member States to take the necessary measures, in accordance with their national law, to submit 1-benzylpiperazine (also known as 1-benzyl-1, 4-diazacyclohexane, N-benzylpiperazine or ? less precisely ? as benzylpiperazine or BZP) to mere control measures, proportionate to the low and still to be researched and proven risks of the substance.

In its resolution, the Parliament draws the attention of the Commission and the Council to the lack of conclusive scientific evidence in the risk assessment report on which the Commission proposal is based, particularly as regards evidence of overall risks and harm caused by this substance, and stresses that further studies are needed.

Narcotic and psychotropic substances: defining 1-benzylpiperazine BZP as a new synthetic drug which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions

PURPOSE: to define 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) as a new psychoactive substance which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions.

LEGISLATIVE ACT: Council Decision 2008/206/JHA defining 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) as a new psychoactive substance which is to be made subject to control measures and criminal provisions.

CONTENT: this Decision defines 1-benzylpiperazine (BZP) as a new psychoactive substance which is to be made subject to control measures proportionate to the risks of the substance, and criminal penalties, as provided for under their legislation complying with their obligations under the 1971 United Nations Convention on Psychotropic Substances.

ENTRY INTO FORCE: 08/03/2008.